

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 1-8 and 11-19, of which Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. Claims 16-19 are newly added.

In view of the above amendments and newly added claims, and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Initially, the drawings stand objected to on grounds that Figure 7 allegedly does not illustrate clearly the location of cams with respect to the sectioned operating area. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that when Figure 7 is viewed in light of the disclosure of the specification, the overall illustration thereof is clear. More specifically, and with reference to page 28, lines 1-10, there is a detailed discussion therein of how each of the sectioned operating areas 1-7 corresponds to the movement of the cam member when such area is the initial area. It is respectfully submitted that such disclosure makes it clear that the moving area of the operating member is the area sectioned in order of a first rest area, a first punching area, a second punching area, a second rest area, a third punching area, and a fourth punching area.

The specification has also been objected to and Claims 9-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, essentially on the same grounds forming the basis for the objection to Figure 7. Applicants submit that given the disclosure discussed above in combination with Figure 7, it is clear that the moving area of the operating member is in fact the area sectioned in order of a first rest area, a first punching area, a second punching area, a second rest area, a third punching area, and a fourth punching area. Applicants therefore respectfully

request that the objection to the specification and rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and therefore respectfully submit that the rejection has been addressed and should now be withdrawn.

The invention as featured in independent Claim 1 is directed to a punching device which comprises a die member having a plurality of die holes, a plurality of punch members, an operating member having cam portions formed along a direction intersecting the direction of advancement of the punch members, the operating member being moved along the direction intersecting the direction of advancement of the punch members to cause by a conversion function of the cam portions the punch members to advance into the die holes, and drive means for selectively causing advancement of the plurality of punch members by movement back and forth of the operating member.

As now amended, the invention is further characterized in its provision of control means for controlling the drive means wherein the operating member is movable between a first rest position and a second rest position and the control means performs an initializing operation in which the operating member is moved to the first rest position when the operating member is located between the first rest position and the second rest position and the operating member is located nearer the second rest position than the first rest position, and the operating member is moved to the second rest position when the operating member is located between the

first rest position and the second rest position and the operating member is located nearer the first rest position than the second rest position.

Accordingly, Applicants' invention as now set forth in Claim 1 more clearly recites the invention by incorporating therein the initializing operation by the operating member such as described in the specification at least at page 31, line 19 through page 32, line 14.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Fukimoto, et al. Given the above amendments, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

More specifically, as now set forth in Claim 1, as well as claims depending therefrom, the control means performs an initializing operation in which the operating member is moved to the first rest position when the operating member is located between the first rest position and the second rest position and the operating member is located near the second rest position rather than the first rest position, and the operating member is moved to the second rest position when the operating member is located between the first rest position and the second rest position and the operating member is located near the first rest position rather than second rest position. It is respectfully submitted that these additional features as now set forth Claim 1, and claims depending therefrom, are nowhere taught nor suggested by the applied art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments have placed the claims in the above application in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims in the above-identified application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to Claim 1. In addition, each recite features of the

invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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